

Archaeology Artifact Lesson

Purpose:

To closely examine archaeological artifacts to see what can be learned about the past.

Activity:

Introduction of the lesson should note that archaeological projects involve **Research, Excavation, Analysis**, and then **Reporting**. This lesson focuses on developing skills needed for analysis which involves closely examining and documenting objects.

Students should be given an artifact or an image of an artifact from the NYC Archaeological Repository website and a worksheet asking questions that will help students look more closely at the object.

Questions may include:

What is it made of?
The artifact was part of a larger object. How big would the complete object have been?
Do you have something like this in your home? If so, what does your family do with it?
How do you think this object was used?
Do you think it would be used daily? Just special occasions?
Can you tell where it was made? If not, any guesses?
Do you think it was expensive? Why or why not?

After answering all these questions, can you tell anything about the people who once used it?

Once the students have the opportunity to examine their objects they should be asked to share their findings with the class.